

Kyla K. Stepp
Central Michigan University
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Current Positions Held

Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow, Central Michigan University **2016-present**

Researcher, Wayne State University Law School **2015-present**

- National Science Foundation Grant (\$249,952)
"Legal Mobilization, Rights Claims, and Federal Indian Policy Reform"
PI – Kirsten Matoy Carlson, J.D., Ph.D.

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, Wayne State University **2016**

- *Examination Fields*: American Government & Politics (Major)
Public Policy (Minor)
World Politics (Minor)
Research Methods
- *Dissertation*: "Modern-Day Judicial 'Politics': An Analysis of Federal District Court Decision Making in Contemporary, Politically Divisive Issue Areas"

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center **2004**

B.S. in Legal Studies, Grand Valley State University **2001**

Research and Teaching Interests

Public Law, including Constitutional Law and Judicial Behavior; Public Policy; Contemporary Constitutional Issues and Social Movements; Social Justice and Criminal Law; Political Institutions; Race, Gender, Sexuality & Politics; Public Opinion; State Politics and Policy

Teaching Experience & Courses Taught

Teaching Fellow, Central Michigan University **2016-present**

- Courses Include: Constitutional Law, Civil Liberties & Civil Rights, Trial Advocacy, Administrative Law, Campaigns & Elections, Judicial Process & Politics, Political Behavior, American National Institutions (Capstone), Introduction to American Government

Adjunct Instructor, Wayne State University **2014-2016**

- Courses Include: Introduction to American Government, American Legal Systems & Processes, State and Local Government

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Wayne State University **2011-2014**

- Instructor of Record Courses Include: Introduction to American Government, American Legal Systems & Processes
- Teaching Assistant Courses Include: Introduction to American Government

LSAT Preparation Instructor, Georgetown University Law Center **2002-2004**

Published Journal Articles (Refereed)

Jeremiah J. Castle and Kyla K. Stepp. 2018. "Silver Screen Sorting: Social Identity and Selective Exposure in Popular Film Viewing." *The Social Science Journal*, forthcoming.

Kyla K. Stepp. Forthcoming. "Analyzing Federal District Court Judicial Decision Making using Content Analysis, Innovative Variables, and Logistic Regression." *Sage Research Methods Cases*.

Kyla K. Stepp and Jeremiah J. Castle. Forthcoming. "Raising the Bar: Maximizing Engaged Student Learning using the AMTA Case *State of Midlands v. Dylan Hendricks*." *Journal of Political Science Education*.

Works in Progress

Kyla K. Stepp and Kevin Lorentz. "Contingent Decision-Making: How State Supreme Court Judges Respond to Polarization Across Retention Regimes." Revise and resubmit from refereed journal.

Kyla K. Stepp. "A Woman's Prerogative: Gender Differences in LGBTQ and Abortion Judicial Decision-Making across Federal and State Courts." Conference paper in preparation for journal submission.

Kyla K. Stepp. "Modern-Day Judicial 'Politics': An Analysis of U.S. District Court Decision Making in Cases Involving Salient and Politically Charged Constitutional Rights." Conference paper in preparation for journal submission.

Jeremiah J. Castle, Kyla K. Stepp, and Ian Callison. "Coming to a Theatre Near You: How Popular Films Set the Issue Agenda." Conference paper in preparation for journal submission.

Academic Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellowship, Central Michigan University **2016-present**

Graduate School Dissertation Research Support Grant, **2015**
Wayne State University

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of Political Science, **2011-2014**
Wayne State University

Garrett T. Heberlein Excellence in Teaching Award, **2013**
Department of Political Science Nominee, Wayne State University

CALI Student Award, Georgetown University Law Center **2003**

Professional Training and Development

Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) 2014

- Intensive summer program in quantitative methods, University of Michigan

Certificate of Excellent Teaching Development 2012

Office of Teaching and Learning, Wayne State University

- Successfully completed 22 hours of seminars in the areas of Effective Teaching Strategies, Integrating Technology into Teaching, Diversity in the Classroom, and Professional Development.

Professional, University & Community Service

Director, Law Professions Center and Pre-Law Advisor, CMU **2018-present**

Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Delta, CMU **2018-present**

Co-Founder and Faculty Advisor, CMU Mock Trial Association **2016-present**

Honors Thesis Project Advisor – Mackenzie Flynn **2017-2018**

Evan Wittenbach **2017-2018**

Boomer Wingard **2018-2019**

Jenny Eldred **2018-2019**

Panelist – Speak Up, Speak Out Forum at CMU 2016, 2018

Peer Reviewer – *New Political Science* Journal 2015-present

Member of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) 2012
Teaching Award Committee, Wayne State University

Attorney volunteer at historically minority polling locations 2010, 2012, 2014
on Election Day to uphold citizens’ voting rights

Select Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Conference 2018
Panel Presentation “Coming to a Theatre Near You: How Popular Films Set the Issue Agenda” with Jeremiah Castle.

Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference 2018
Panel Presentation “A Woman’s Prerogative: Gender Differences in LGBTQ and Abortion Judicial Decision-Making across Federal and State Courts”

American Political Science Association Annual Conference 2017
Panel Presentation “Silver Screen Sorting: Ideological Choice in Popular Film Viewing” with Jeremiah Castle.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference 2017
Panel Presentation “Contingent Decision-Making: How State Supreme Court Judges Respond to Polarization Across Retention Regimes”

American Political Science Association Annual Conference 2016
Panel Presentation “Polarized Justice” with Kevin G. Lorentz.

Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference 2016
Panel Presentation “The (Mis)alignment of Public Opinion, Ideology, and Representation over Time”.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference 2015
Panel Presentation “Modern-Day Judicial ‘Politics’: An Analysis of U.S. District Court Decision Making in Cases Involving Salient and Politically Charged Constitutional Rights”.

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association
Law and Society Association
Michigan State Bar Association
American Bar Association

Professional References

David Jesuit, Professor and Department Chair
Central Michigan University, Department of Political Science & Public Administration
989-774-2795 • jesui1dk@cmich.edu

Edward Clayton, Professor
Central Michigan University, Department of Political Science & Public Administration
989-774-1621 • clayt1ew@cmich.edu

Ronald Brown, Associate Professor
Wayne State University, Department of Political Science
313-577-2630 • rebrown@wayne.edu

Kirsten Matoy Carlson, Assistant Professor of Law
Wayne State University Law School
313-577-1201 • kirsten.carlson@wayne.edu